On seeing the title of Vol. IV. of "The Cambridge Modern History" (Macmillans). namely, "The Thirty Years War," hopes prose that at last an adequate presentment of tangled European history could be read nglish. The volume includes, however, something of far greater moment than any Continental disaster, the story of the struggle between Charles Stuart and his The proportions are reduced. therefore, to what general histories usually ide. A more descriptive title would have been "the history of the first sixty years of the seventeenth century." In this the editors apparently have been take the greater portion of the on themselves. Dr. A. W. Ward War all by himself; Dr. G. W. Prothero attends to England as far as the Protectorate, when the task is taken up by others, and Mr. Stanley Leathes deals with the French side. It is a mark of very recent discussions that whole chapters should be devoted to the navy of the Commonwealth and to the transference of colonial power. The latter, by the way, is by the new Beit professor at Oxford. We should be sorry to have lost Mr. Horace F. Brown's interesting chapter on the Valtelline, but not even Milton's sonnet can justify the pro-portion given to that episode. The in-clusion of the chapter on British fantastic poets seems eccentric. The chief writers of this volume are well known as thoroughly respectable but not brilliant historical writers; the matters they have to deal with have been fully threshed over by their predecessors; it would be difficult for them to make serious blunders. Their volume is a trustworthy book of reference, but, we fancy, is not what Lord Acton planned.

In writing the two large volumes of *Christopher Columbus and the New World of His Discovery" (J. B. Lippincott Company), Mr. Filson Young believes that he is supplying something that is really wanted. He has discovered that to many people Columbus means merely a name and a fact or two; that nobody has any idea of the man himself or seems to care. So he has set to work to bring him to life again. He has read a number of excellent books on Columbus and, we infer from the excellent photographs, has visited a number of places associated with him. So he starts on his story, using a jaunty, conversational tone with slips into slang, which accounts for the two volumes, but which we presume is "living." Whenever he comes to an ascertained fact in Columbus's career Mr. Young employs his imagination to picture what happened. Unfortunately Columbus was a fifteenth century Genoese adventurer and Mr. Young is a twentieth century British subject, an Irishman we suspect, but with the limitations of insular conventionality. The result is, we fear, that the reader often sees what Mr. Young would have done if he had been Columbus instead of the live discoverer Nevertheless, the oft told tale is told again entertainingly and lightly, if it does occasionally cause irritation, and it is a story, that is always worth reading.

Told of a Girl in Wales.

Fortunately for the reader who would follow the extraordinary career of Allen Raine's "Queen of the Rushes," a glossary of Welsh idioms precedes the opening chapter. The words of which it is made up would furnish excellent material for the Reform Spelling Board to try its knives upon. "Bendigedic" for blessed and "machgeni" for lad are vexing stumbling blocks to trip over in the excitement of a

The story has an unfamiliar setting in a the sea coast of Wales and starts off briskly and blithely with the drowning of a company of reapers in sight of a little girl whose mother is among the drowned. The child falls into an unconscious condition, from which she is restored to find that she has lost the power of speech. For obvious reasons, though the heroine of the book, she takes no active part in the dialogue until toward the close of the story, when she loses consciousness again and awakens to find her power of speech as miraculously restored as it was taken away. Not only does she converse fluently, but her language is that of the gentry and not the dialect of the rough farmer folk among whom she has worked all her life. Nothing so remarkable has been offered in fiction since the man in the Mother Goose rhyme jumped into a bramble bush and scratched out both his eyes and then jumped into another bush and scratched them in again. The book presents a picture of Welsh farming life with the tried and serviceable plot of the man who weds one woman while loving another-the ward of the household. It is published by the George W. Jacobs Com-

Early American Life Portrayed.

A bonbon romance with little point and no purpose, written by Edith Sessions Tupper, under the title of "Hearts Triamphant" (Appletons), reproduces the gay life of the olden time when the "Bowerie" was the fashionable thoroughfare for dashing fops and stately belles. Famous old names are introduced to give substance to this flimsy fabric of fancythe Clintons, Schuylers and Crugers, and historic personages are pressed into service in working out its little plot-Hamilton and Burr and Prince Jerome Bonaparte. Much of the action takes place in the old dumel mansion, where rare wnies in too great abundance turn rose banquets into boisterous revels and undecorous riot.

It is not the kind of romance to be recommended for the young, nor to prove entertaining to older readers, notwithstanding the beauty of the young heroine, Prue, the diablerie and charm of Betty Jumel and the chivalry of the susceptible and unreliable hero.

Manners. The intricacies of court life at the national capital are explained in "Social Usages at Washington," by Florence Howe Hall (Har-To old fashioned people with recollections of earlier democratic manners it will be a revelation to learn how complex social life has become, with how many forms and ceremonials it has been enriched and what importance precedence has taken in our republican society. This is due in part to the predominance of diplomats, army and navy people and high officials Washington. The organization and regulation of formal ceremonies have deof greatly, we gather, since President loosevelt has been in the White House, and It is now more possible to keen the mob at a distance in ceremonials that call properly for the attendance of only officials and invited guests. The author gives clear directions for navigation through the Femis of the official court and shows much attiral enthusiasm for the later additions

to dignified formalities. Directions about behavior in less exalted circles are conveyed very sensibly in

"The Etiquette of New York To-day." by Mrs. Frank Learned (Frederick A. Stokes Company). The author, we are glad to see, does not assume that her readers may eat with their knives or wear gaudy ties with evening clothes. She limits herself to the many details that keep changing and about which even well bred people may be somewhat uncertain. Her advice is put clearly and is generally sensible, though she cannot help touching on matters beyond the range of etiquette, like vulgarity in speech and the behavior of young girls. She drops these quickly, however. We note with pleasure that though she dwells on engagements and weddings she lets the etiquette of funerals alone.

Illustrated Holiday Editions

It was in his charming stories for children that the late Frank R. Stockton gave fullest rein to his fancy. Our memory may dwell more on the strange characters he created, or in the amusing logical twist of his tales, but when he was writing for children, who he knew could follow him, he set no check on his imagination. Ten of his prettiest stories will be found in "The Queen's Mu seum and Other Fanciful Tales" (Charles Scribner's Sons), a beautiful small quarto, adorned with charming colored illustra-

tions by Frederick Richardson.

A pretty little love tale by Miss Edith Macvane, "The Adventures of Joujou," is issued in holiday dress, with colored borders and with colored illustrations by Frank Ver Beck by the J. B. Lippincott Company. It is put purposely in a somewhat artificial French setting and the rendering of the French forms of speech into English is done skilfully.

Another short love story, "A Maid in Aroady," by Mr. Ralph Henry Barbour, also in holiday attire, is issued by the J. B. Lippincott Company. There are tinted illustrations, apparently from photographs. on the borders, and other full page colored

pictures. The story is pretty.

Robert Browning's "The Last Ride Together," is published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, with full page illustrations, decorated borders and vignettes by Frederick Simpson Coburn. The large pictures and the borders are generally good, the small pictures are unattractive. The drawing of the horses may be correct, but at times the pictures are ludicrous and a trial to those who care for the poem.

Wallace Irwin's Ephemeral Verse. The industry of Mr. Wallace Irwin will impress the reader even more than his cleverness in looking over "Random Rhymes and Odd Numbers" (Macmillans). There are few of the rhymes in these 300 pages that are not "seasonable" in language, in subject and in point of view. They would have been unintelligible four years ago and will need annotations four years hence.

They are literally the poetry of the moment No doubt some one must write this and no doubt Mr. Irwin has done his work well. His verse has swing and melody and his too frequent parodies give momentary point to his pieces. All the same, it is a pity to see him wasting his gifts on such ephemeral themes. But probably Mr. Irwin feels that posterity has done nothing for him.

while the foam is on; to-morrow it will be

Saul of Tarsus in Romance.

The life of Saul of Tarsus furnishes the basic theme for a long and elaborately con- greater than would have been the case a structed story of the early Christians by Elizabeth Miller. The tale is really a romance in which interest centres upon the love of Marsyas, a young and ardent member of the Essenes, for Lydia, the beautiful Jewish maiden with the flowerlike face, who joins the Nazarenes.

The story is helplessly overcrowded with details which distract rather than compel interest, and while showing an enormous amount of research and study of the period reproduced, is ineffective and wearisome. The lover rescues his lady gallantly from divers perils, renounces his philosophy and embraces her religion. The story of Saul is retold with vigor and painstaking. But the effect is that of a spectacular performance of great magnificence and unreality. "Saul of Tarsus" is published by the Bobbs Merrill

Books for Youthful Readers.

A book of travel for children, entitled "In Eastern Wonderlands," by Charlotte Chaffee Gibson, is made up of the experiences of three children on a journey round the world. The story is pleasantly and intelligently written and introduces much of history, tradition and mythology, as well as the modern customs and peculiarities of the countries visited. Special emphasis is laid upon Japan, China, Ceylon, India and Egypt as countries least familiar to the much travelled children of the day. The story begins with a railway journey across the Continent, broken at Great Salt Lake, proceeds to Honolulu, Tokio, India, the Land of Enchantment, Benares, Bombay, Luxor and Karnak, and ends in Italy with promise of more to come. It is a well written and profitable little book for stay at home students of foreign life as well as for those who actually visit the countries described and will be especially interested in the tales and traditions of the places

they have seen. (Little, Brown and Co.) The history of civilization, reduced to simple terms easily within the comprehension of a child, but appeaing to older readers by its quaintness and charm of style and its underlying significance of meaning, entitled "Two-Legs," has been written by the Danish author, Carl Ewald, and translated by Alexander Teixeira de Mattos



PETER DAILEY.

DAILEY, OF LEW FIELDS! LATEST SUCCE S, "THE G. EAT DE-CIDE," NEARLY MISSED THE MATINEE.

"I nearly missed getting to the theatre for a matinee because I was 'blindfolded,' said Peter Dailey in a letter to Earle Ashley Walcott, the author, recently. "I picked up your book 'Blindfolded' after breakfast. That's all. What happened?

"In less than fifteen minutes I was oblivious to everything outside its pages. I was so absorbed in what your characters were doing that I didn't notice the clock. I felt my valet's hand on my shoulder and heard him say that it was 1 in the afternoon and that it was Saturday.

"'I can't go; I'm "blindfolded,' " I replied without looking up.

"There wasn't a sound for an hour, and then I heard a sneeze. I looked up and there was my valet standing behind me. He hadn't moved. He had caught a glimpse of the book and had been reading it over my shoulder since he had called me an hour before-it was 2 o'clock. I stuck my hat on my head, grabbed the book and started for the theatre. I read every spare moment. I have never seen anything so interesting." -PETER DAILEY.

Since the awful disaster that befell San Francisco, any story depicting life as it existed before the great earthquake takes on an added quality of interest, becoming not only a story but a record as well. This is the case with "Blindfolded," by Earle Ashley Walcott, from the press of The Bobbs-Now is the time to buy and enjoy his book, Merrill Company. Its striking incidents of San Francisco adventure, bringing in the life of the Chinese quarter, and including a night excursion into the opium-dens of that district, possess now a degree of appeal even

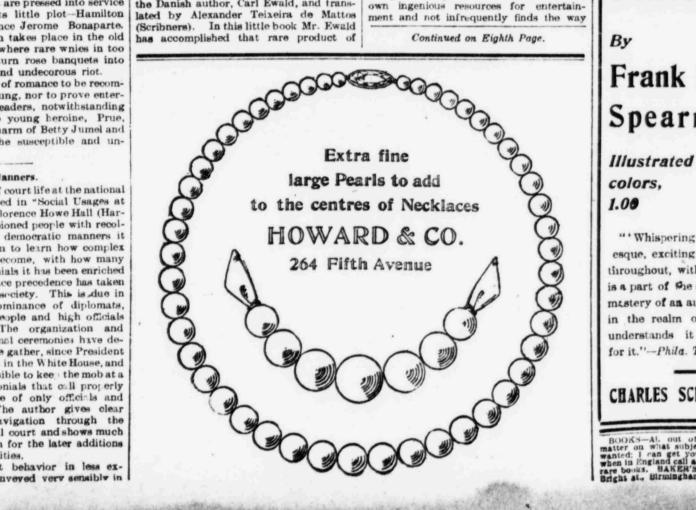
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literature-the story that the adult of dis crimination and taste enjoys reading to a little child. It begins, as all good stories should, with "once upon a time, many, many years ago," when the man and the woman came into the forest to live among the animals and birds. It follows them through all their adventures, as slowly, day by day, through the need for food, for clothing, for shelter, the love of home and children, the man and the woman conquered the animal kingdom, established the agriculture and industry of the world and laid the foundation of society. The story is told by the animals and birds from their own point of view, and is well worth the reading.

The "Further Fortunes of Pinkey Perkins," by Capt. Harold Hammond, U.S. A., involves about the sort of adventures that would happen to a wideawake, mischief loving and good hearted boy in the ordinary village. That Pinkey so frequently comes to grief in his enterprises lends force to the statement that his story is founded on the actual occurrences of the author's own life. Most boys in books have specially appointed guardian angels to provide continuous opportunities for exciting episodes and happy endings to all their misdoings. Pinkey seems to be thrown on his own ingenious resources for entertainment and not infrequently finds the way



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